

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0462

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJ: COLORED UNIVERSITY CLOSURE MAY INCREASE BLACK
SOLIDARITY

REF: CAPE TOWN 458 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: COLORED UNIVERSITY WESTERN CAPE STUDENTS HAVE
ORGANIZED
WELL- ATTENDED MEETINGS TO OBTAIN FURTHER BACKING FOR THEIR REFUSAL
TO
REAPPLY FOR ADMISSION. COLORED LABOR PARTY IN SUPPORTING DISSIDENT
STUDENTS HAS FOUND A POPULAR PLATFORM. SOURCES IN LABOR PARTY AND
AMONG COLORED INTELLECTUALS CLAIM CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT
IS
BRINGING NEW SOLIDARITY TO COLOREDS AND FEELING OF INCREASED
TOGETHER
-
NESS WITH AFRICANS. AS MINIMUM, FURTHER DAMAGE TO COLORED- WHITE
RELATIONS ALREADY SEEMS CONSIDERABLE.

2. CLOSURE OF COLORED UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE (UWC) AND
REQUIRE-
MENT THAT ALL STUDENTS MUST REAPPLY FOR ADMISSION CONTINUES TO
SIMMER
.
DEVELOPMENTS SINCE REFTEL INCLUDE FOLLOWING: (A) UNIVERSITY' S

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BLACK STAFF ASSOCIATION DECIDED ITS THREE (COLORED) MEMBERS MUST WITHDRAW FROM COMMITTEE HANDLING READMISSION OF STUDENTS SINCE ASSOCIATION BACKS STUDENTS' DEMAND FOR UNCONDITIONAL RE-INSTATEMENT.

COLORED MEMBER OF OTHER COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING STUDENT GRIEVANCES NOT AFFECTED ALTHOUGH STUDENT ACTION COMMITTEE FELT IT SHOULD RATHER HAVE INVESTIGATED COMPETENCE AND SINCERITY OF RECTOR " WHO COULD HAVE AVERTED EVERYTHING". (B) MINISTER OF COLORED AFFAIRS VAN DER MERWE DEFENDED CONDITION THAT STUDENTS MUST REAPPLY AS GUARANTEEING ORDERLY RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITIES OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE RIGHT TO THIS PROTECTION. HOWEVER STUDENTS CONTINUE TO SEE THIS AS TACTIC TO DEVELOP MISTRUST IN COLORED COMMUNITY, STIFLE LEGITIMATE PROTEST AND CURB STUDENT LEADERS.

3. ADDITIONALLY, WHOLE SERIES OF WELL- ATTENDED MEETINGS IN WESTERN CAPE, MOSTLY ORGANIZED BY STUDENT ACTION COMMITTEE, HAVE GIVEN FULL BACKING TO STUDENTS. COMMITTEE HAS ASKED STUDENTS TO SEND ALL READMISSION APPLICATIONS TO COMMITTEE TO BE CEREMONIALLY BURNED. COLORED LABOR PARTY LEADERS SONNY LEON AND DAVID CURRY HAVE ADDRESSED SOME MEETINGS.

4. SHARPENING OF RACIAL MISTRUST CONTINUED TO BE A CONCERN OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS WHILE AFRIKAANS WEEKLY RAPPORT HAD COMPLAINTS ABOUT WAY AUTHORITIES HAD HANDLED SITUATION. HOWEVER CAPE NATIONALIST MOUTHPIECE DIE BURGER ATTACKED UWC SENIOR LECTURER ADAM SMALL FOR INCITING STUDENTS (SEE REFTTEL) AND URGED THAT PEOPLE OF GOODWILL KEEP OUT EXPLOITERS AND INSTIGATORS. PROGRESSIVE MP HELEN SUZMAN SAID COLORED STUDENTS HAVE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF GOVERNMENT' S ARROGANCE AND TREATING THEM AS GLORIFIED HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN. SHE URGED GOVERNMENT TO GIVE WAY GRACEFULLY BY READMITTING ENTIRE STUDENT BODY. UNITED PARTY' S CATHERINE TAYLOR, UNTIL RECENTLY PARTY' S SPOKESMAN ON EDUCATION, ALSO ISSUED LONG STATEMENT CONDEMNING WAY GOVERNMENT HAS HANDLED SITUATION . SHE CALLED IT RIDICULOUS THAT PRO- RATA THERE SHOULD TODAY BE MORE BLACK STAFF MEMBERS ON CAMPUSES OF BLACK UNIVERSITIES THAN THERE ARE AT (COLORED) UWC.

5. COMMENT: UWC DEADLOCK MAY END UP HAVING SIGNIFICANCE CONSIDERABLY BEYOND THAT OF A BROWN STUDENT- WHITE ADMINISTRATION CONFRONTATION. FOR EXAMPLE, LABOR PARTY HAS FOUND READY- MADE PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO WIDEN ITS BASE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, SOURCES IN LABOR PARTY, COLORED CHURCHES AND COLORED TEACHING PROFESSION

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HAVE TOLD CONGEN THAT COLORED COMMUNITY HAS FOUND MORE
COHESIVENESS
ON THIS ISSUE THAN ON ANY OTHER FOR MANY YEARS. FURTHERMORE THEY
CLAIM IT IS RESULTING IN CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH AFRICANS AND
AN INCREASING FEELING (HERETOFORE LIMITED TO A SMALL SEGMENT OF
COLORED POPULATION) THAT COLOREDS AND AFRICANS ARE ALL " BLACKS"
TOGETHER IN FIGHT AGAINST WHITE DISCRIMINATION. EXTENT TO WHICH
THESE ALLEGED EFFECTS WILL BE LASTING REMAINS TO BE SEEN BUT
THERE IS ALREADY FURTHER DAMAGE TO WHITE- COLORED RELATIONS WHICH
MAY BE DIFFICULT TO RETRIEVE.
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